

Inc., Pennsylvania American Water Company, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Continental Bank and the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority.

He served as chairman of the board at the Wyoming Valley Health Care System and at the Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority.

A member of the Fox Hill Country Club, he is also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree.

Mr. McCarthy was awarded the "Citizen of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club and "Small Businessman of the Year" by the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McCarthy is married to the former Cecelia M. Corgan and they are the parents of Mary Ellen Horn, Kathleen Lambert and John D. McCarthy Jr. They also have seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. McCarthy on this auspicious occasion. His extraordinary service to the community and his personal example has been inspirational to many. The contribution he has made has greatly enhanced the quality of life throughout the region and has earned him widespread respect and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during Tuesday evening's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1069 and H. Res. 935, and against H.R. 3650.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the House voted down H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act. This bill would have cost an estimated \$153 million of taxpayer dollars for 2010 through 2014 and \$22 million after 2014 to establish a new task force charged with responding to hypoxia events and, among other items, implementing and overseeing the regional research and action plans. I joined with 141 of my colleagues and voted against this misguided bill. I understand and appreciate that the health of our rivers is of vital importance to the 9th district of Missouri and to the Nation, and I believe that responsible environmental management is critically important to national commerce and infrastructure. However, agriculture has been forced to bear the brunt of environmental attacks for long enough. While the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, point the finger at agriculture as a contributor of gulf hypoxia, particularly through the dumping of sediment and runoff of fertilizer,

the Army Corps of Engineers, Corps, at the direction of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is digging chutes that are up to 25 feet deep, 200 to 300 feet wide, and sometimes over one mile long to provide shallow water habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon. According to the Missouri Clean Water Commission, the Corps will dump 34 million metric tons of sediment into the Missouri River annually. This soil contains a significant amount of phosphorous, a known cause of hypoxia. All of this without facing fines from the EPA, which have been levied against farmers and businesses along the river, because the Corps was able to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit granted by themselves. Instead of continually attacking agriculture and small business and trivially spending hard earned taxpayer dollars, perhaps the Federal Government should spend some time investigating its own actions.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD GEORGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chief Justice of California Supreme Court, Ronald Marc George on the occasion of his 70th birthday and to thank him for his years of extraordinary public service to the people of California and beyond.

Chief Justice George is married to his beloved wife, Barbara and they have three children . . . Eric, Andrew and Chris, and two grandchildren, Charlotte and Maya, daughters of Chris and his wife Rebecca.

Born on March 11, 1940, Chief Justice George received his A.B. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1961, and a J.D. from Stanford University in 1964. Currently serving as the 27th Chief Justice of California, he heads the Supreme Court of California as well as the Judicial Council of California.

Chief Justice George has had a long and distinguished career. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of California in 1991 by Governor Pete Wilson after serving on the bench in the Los Angeles Municipal Court, the Los Angeles Superior Court and on the Court of Appeals. He also served as Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice where he prepared six oral arguments and briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice George served as the President of the Conference of Chief Justices, Chair of the Board of Directors in the National Center for State Courts, President of the California Judges Association, as well as many other activities and associations outside his work on the bench. He has been honored by numerous organizations including the Consumer Attorneys' Association of Los Angeles' Roger J. Traynor Memorial Award in 2009, the Bar Association of San Francisco's Champion of Justice Award in 2008, the American Bar Association's John Marshall Award in 2007 and the Legal Writing Institute's Golden Pen Award in 2007. His accomplishments and recognitions are simply too many to name. In addition to his judicial commitments and volun-

teer activities, he takes time to lecture at numerous judicial education programs, law schools and events around the country to share his experience and legal expertise.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our best wishes to Chief Justice Ronald George on the very special occasion of his 70th birthday, and extend our gratitude for his integrity, his love of the Constitution and his exemplary leadership which strengthens California's judicial system and our nation as well.

RECOGNITION FOR THE 2010 TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2010 Tucson Festival of Books, which will be held at the University of Arizona on March 13 and 14.

The Tucson Festival of Books is a celebration of literacy and an opportunity for those of us who cherish books to meet the men and women who write them. It is, ultimately, a community's recognition of the great value we place on the written word.

As the proud home of the University of Arizona, Tucson is the ideal place for a festival of books. The Festival brings together more than 450 authors and presenters who will speak about their work, sign their books and answer questions about their craft.

Now in its second year, the Tucson Festival of Books will have writing workshops and competitions, panel presentations, children's activities, storytelling, artists and musicians. The Festival truly provides something for readers of all ages. In 2009 more than 50,000 people attended the Festival and an even larger turn out is expected this year. Clearly the people of Southern Arizona have a strong love of books and reading.

As much fun and informative as the Festival will be, it also serves a larger purpose. I believe that the Tucson Festival of Books can help us improve literacy and encourage young people to expand their knowledge of the world. It is a reminder of how essential books and the information they impart are to our society and to our form of government. In 2009, the Festival raised \$200,000, which was distributed to agencies providing literacy services in Tucson.

"Once you learn to read," Frederick Douglass told us, "you will be forever free." The Tucson Festival of Books plays an important role in fulfilling that promise.

The 2010 Tucson Festival of Books is sponsored by the University of Arizona, the Arizona Daily Star and The Diamond Children's Medical Center.

The Festival is organized and run by the Tucson Festival of Books Foundation, a non-profit organization. It was founded by Bill Viner, President of the Foundation Board of Directors. He is joined in this labor of love by Board Vice Presidents Frank Farias and John M. Humenik, Treasurer Bruce Beach and Secretary Brenda Viner. The Festival would not be possible without their hard work and dedication and the efforts of many volunteers. On behalf of a grateful community I thank and